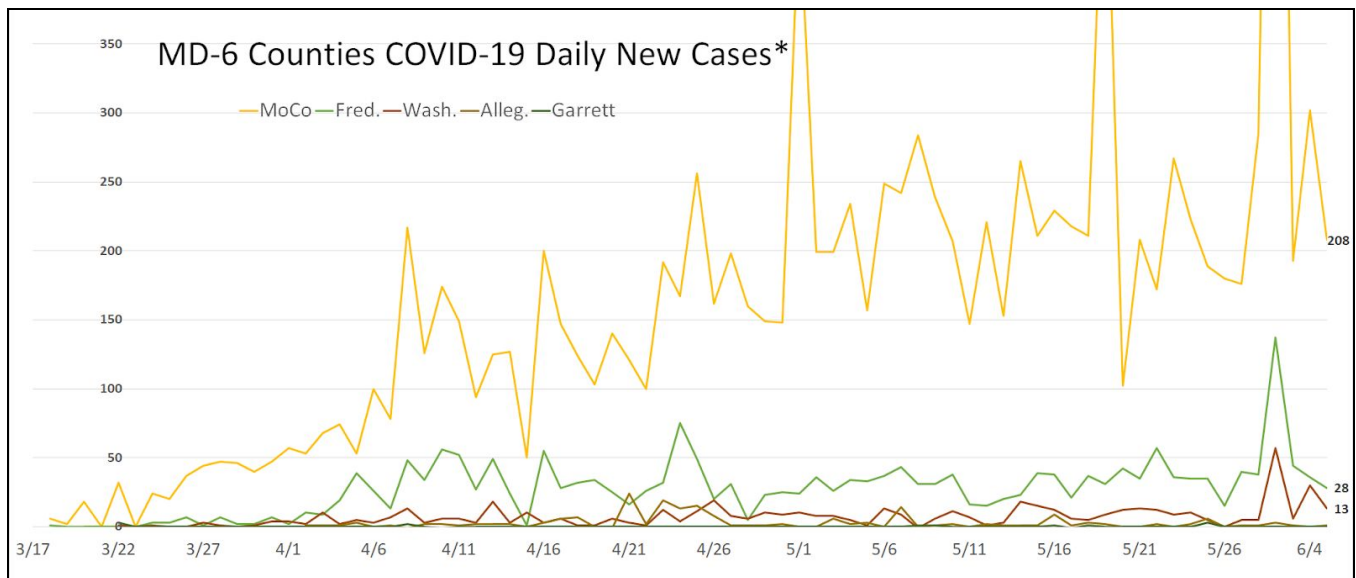
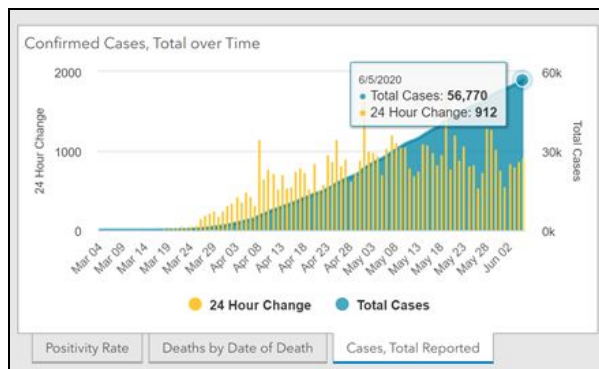
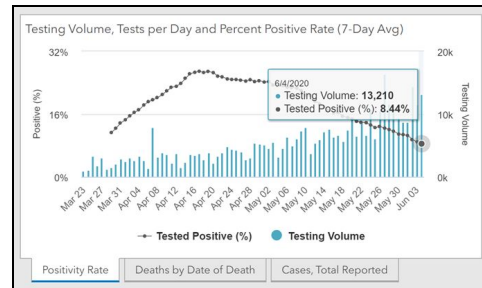
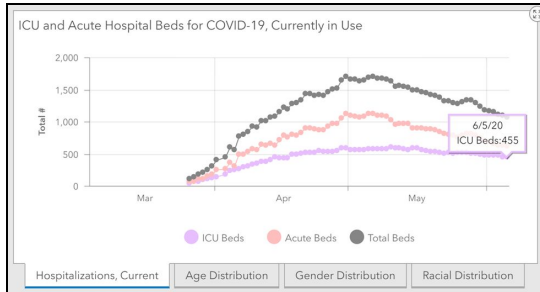


Coronavirus Update: June 5th Congressman David Trone (MD-06)

Stats @ June 5, 5 pm

Governor Larry Hogan is tracking trends in **hospitalizations** and **ICU beds**, as well as testing capacity and positivity rates, for indications on state reopening decisions. Gov. Hogan has given local governments flexibility for reopening decisions, based on local conditions. Most of the charts below are from the state's [coronavirus](#) website.

MARYLAND DATA



*6/2 totals represent total new cases since 5/29 (data not collected 5/29 - 6/1). [Total cases reported](#): MoCo 12,434, Fred. 2,069, Wash. 183, Alleg. 183, Garrett 10. MD: 54,175, MD deaths: 2,474. As of 5PM, the U.S. had recorded 1,890,592 confirmed cases and 108,920 deaths due to Coronavirus ([JHU](#)).

Federal Updates

- [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) (KFF) reported this week that, in the majority of states reporting data, Black people account for a higher share of COVID-19-related cases and deaths compared to their share of the population. The resulting economic crisis has also had an unequal effect on people of color. This week saw protests across the country voicing outrage over how widespread racism in the United States impacts black lives.
- Another **3 million COVID-19 tests were completed across the U.S. this week**, bringing the nationwide total COVID-19 tests with results to 18.6 million. The seven-day rolling average rate positivity rate (between May 28 and June 4) was 4.9%. In the last seven days, 0.9% of the total U.S. population was tested. ([KFF](#))
- The British medical journal [The Lancet](#) retracted a paper published last month that had raised alarms about the safety of experimental COVID-19 treatments chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, when it was unable to complete an independent evaluation of the underlying study data. Within an hour of that news, the New England Journal of Medicine [retracted a separate study](#), focused on blood pressure medications in COVID-19, that relied on data from the same company. Results released this week of a third study, a major clinical trial funded by the U.K. government, **showed hydroxychloroquine had no benefit for patients hospitalized with COVID-19.** ([Statnews.com](#))
- Unemployment fell to 13.3 percent in May, as U.S. employers added 2.5 million jobs back to the economy. The rate is still extremely high by historical standards, but was much better than forecasters were expecting. It reflects an improvement over April's jobless rate of 14.7%. ([NPR](#))

Maryland Updates

Five takeaways this week for Coronavirus in Maryland, as summarized by [The Baltimore Sun](#):

1. Many public health professionals have expressed support for public protests this week against police violence, while others have voiced concerns about the potential risk of spreading COVID-19 at these large gatherings. Coronavirus continues to wreak havoc on the Black community in Maryland and elsewhere. Public health experts attribute this to many factors, including less access to medical care than their white counterparts, and that many are “essential” workers and cannot stay or work from home.
2. Gov. Hogan approved the state’s move into Phase 2 of recovery, which allows most businesses deemed nonessential (e.g., tattoo parlors, car dealerships, and tanning and nail salons) to reopen with restrictions in place. The governor encouraged people who can work from home to do so for as long as possible. The state has not lifted its ban on gatherings of 10 or more, but many continue to do so without reprimand.
3. Less than five months out from November’s general election, Maryland’s first largely mail-in election Tuesday had some snafus. The state had sent absentee ballots to every registered, eligible voter to be mailed back or deposited in a drop box by June 2. Residents in Baltimore and Montgomery County received ballots later than expected – or not at all. There were also many long lines at the polls, and lost and uncounted ballots.
4. A contact tracing center with hundreds of workers opened this week. Contact tracing, identified by Hogan as a key component of the state’s recovery, helps slow the spread of the coronavirus as investigators track and trace cases back to origins and points of possible transmission.
5. Gov. Hogan reported significant progress in lowering the state “positivity rate” i.e., the number of infected individuals who test positive for COVID-19 compared to the total number of tests conducted. Low rates indicate states are testing large quantities of people and not just the sickest. Maryland’s rate is trending lower and currently hovers around 10 percent—still about twice as high as the World Health Organization suggests to allow for safe reopening.

District Updates

- Montgomery County
 - a. Friday morning the Maryland Department of Health reported 12,434 cases of COVID-19 in Montgomery County, which is an increase of 208 cases from the 12,226 reported Wednesday. Since the first case in March, 606 county residents have died from COVID-19. This is an increase of ten

deaths since Thursday, according to the health department. The number of probable deaths is 39. Montgomery County has seen more deaths due to COVID-19 than any other jurisdiction in the state.

- b. Applications for the COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program must be submitted by 2:00 pm on Friday, June 5. This program aims to help residents who are being economically impacted during COVID-19 and will provide financial assistance in the form of a rent subsidy payment.
- c. Montgomery County will remain in Phase One and will not see non-essential businesses reopen on Friday. "For the time being, we remain where we are," said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. Elrich issued a warning to businesses, saying that progress on reopening could potentially be halted or even reversed. During a public telephone meeting Thursday evening, Elrich said the county will make decisions on what it will take to proceed to the second and third phases and will release that information to the business community "in the coming days."

- **Frederick County**

- a. The rate of people testing positive for COVID-19 has dropped to 8.4%, below the statewide average. Hospital statistics have significantly improved, with declines in overall hospitalizations, intensive care unit beds, and acute care bed counts. Results from nursing home staff and residents are showing lower infection rates than anticipated, including one that had no positive cases. The number of calls to EMS calls for COVID-positive patients has dropped; six of the last seven days involved zero COVID-patients.
- b. As a result of improving health metrics, Executive Jan Gardner announced that most non-essential businesses may reopen to the general public beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 5. With the signing of [Executive Order 03-2020](#), Frederick County will implement Stage 2 of the Governor's Roadmap to Recovery plan.

- **Washington County**

- a. The **Washington County Department of Business Development** is encouraging small businesses in Washington County that meet the criteria for the [Rise Up Business Stabilization Grant](#) to submit their applications. In the first week of opening the grant program, approximately 300 applications have been submitted, with 36 grants awarded, totaling over \$356,000 distributed to local businesses.
- b. The **Washington County Board of County Commissioners** announced that Washington County will be following the directives from the State of Maryland. Effective at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2020, Washington County will proceed with the additional openings listed in Stage Two of the COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

- **Allegany County**

- a. The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) approved the petition by Allegany County to become a part of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program ([HIDTA](#)). The HIDTA program was created by Congress with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, providing additional assistance to critical drug-trafficking areas in the United States. The program facilitates resources and cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, including reliable intelligence and coordinated law enforcement strategies.

- **Garrett County**

- a. Residents of Allegany and Garrett Counties are extremely dismayed that of nearly 100 state-run COVID-19 test sites for Maryland residents, none are in Allegany or Garrett counties. The closest site, in Hagerstown, is roughly 70 miles from Cumberland, and 120 miles from Oakland.